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RADIO TUBES CAN BE MADE IN YUGOSLAVIA

Ladislav Levai, Engr

Before World War II very little attention was paid in Yugoslavia to the production of radio sets and parts. The few radio workshops in existence were privately operated and used imported materials exclusively.

Since the war, efforts have been made for the first time to manufacture radio apparatus in Yugoslavia, when possible of Yugoslav raw materials and parts, to build new broadcasting stations, and to increase the number of listeners. The Five-Year Plan provides for the independence of the Yugoslav radio industry through domestic production of radio parts by 1951.

The 150,000 radio sets to be manufactured by the end of the Five-Year Plan will require about 700,000 radio tubes. Considering the number of tubes needed for repair and replacement in old sets, about a million tubes will be needed every year. Another 500,000 would be needed annually as vacuum tubes for other branches of industry.

The manufacture of radio tubes involves such raw materials as wolfram for the filaments, nickel for the cathodes, aluminum oxide for insulation, carbonates of alkali metals for the cathodes, lead and copper for the grids, and nickel or other materials for the anodes. As most of the necessary raw materials exist in Yugoslavia, and trained manpower can be obtained from the incandescent light-bulb industry, it would be worthwhile to establish a factory in Yugoslavia to manufacture radio tubes for the domestic trade alone, and still more so for export. Certain special machines would have to be imported, but some equipment could be made in Yugoslavia.

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